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ELECTRICITY FOR VILLAGES
IN MACEDONIA, CROATIA

POSTWAR POWER FACILITIES IN MACEDONIA -- Borba, No 107, 7 May 49

The Five-Year Plan calls for an increase of 14.3 percent in the output of electric power in Macedonia by 1951, or an increase from 15 million kilowatt-hours in 1939 to 215 million kilowatt-hours in 1951. Since the liberation, 14 towns and more than 35 villages in Macedonia have been electrified.

Before the war, Macedonia was the most backward part of Yugoslavia in electric power production. The few power plants built by the Macedonian Government were located near the large cities, Skoplje, Tetovo, and Pitalj, and a few small towns built small thermoelectric power plants. In all Macedonia only about ten villages, near Skoplje and Tetovo, had electric lighting. The prewar government was not interested in the economic development of Macedonia, and the Bulgarian occupation authorities did no more than make promises and prepare plans.

In 1947 construction was begun on the great hydroelectric power plant on the Sapunovka River near the village of Divo in Bitolj Srez, where volunteers from the People's Front are still working. Immediately after this project was started, work began on the construction of the large hydroelectric power plants at Posnica in Kavadar Srez, at Zrnovica in Kocans Srez, and at Bregalnica in Carevo Selo Srez.

In April 1948 the largest power plant in Macedonia, the Hydrocombine on the Radika River near Mavrovo Han, was started. Over 6,500 teen-age boys and girls from all parts of Yugoslavia have taken part in the construction, in addition to paid workers.

Several small thermoelectric power plants were erected immediately after the liberation. From them the areas, Sveti Nikola, Radoviste, Resan, Carevo Selo, Kratovo, Negotin na Vardaru, Krusevo, Pehcevo, and Kavadar, received power for electrification. Soon a power plant will be

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put into operation at Struga. The existing power plants at Strumica, Stip, and Kumanovo have been enlarged to permit a 200-percent increase in power output.

When the power plants were built in the srez seats, more than 35 villages were electrified. About 20 kilometers of long-distance power line were built. Some villages received power from the large plants in the cities, and in some villages the farmers themselves erected small power plants, such as the small thermoelectric power plants at Galicnik, Bogdanica, Lazarepolje, and elsewhere. This year similar power plants will be opened at Bogomila in Tito Veles Srez, at Miravci in Djevdjelija Srez, at Blace in Kocane Srez, at Uzem in Kriva Palanka Srez, at Velgosti in Ohrid Srez, at Vrapiste in Gostivar Srez, and at Velcani in Struga Srez. The village power plants have a capacity of 265 kilovolt-amperes each, while the local power plants to be put into operation this year will have a capacity of 400 kilovolt-amperes each.

The village power plants were built by volunteer labor donated by members of the People's Front and teen-agers. The material was obtained from local sources.

A small hydroelectric power plant will soon be opened in the village of Vevcani. The building for the transformer is under construction, and poles have been obtained for the electric wires. Another small hydroelectric power plant is being built in the village of Bogomila in Tito Veles Srez. The People's Front will raise the money to buy technical equipment through the sale of firewood cut by its members working as volunteers. Poles to carry the wires have already been acquired.

A large thermoelectric power plant, which will supply power to many towns, will be completed within a few days. The long-distance power lines from Probistip to Stip and from Probistip to Kocane, which are now being completed, will begin to carry current on 1 May.

CROATIAN VILLAGES ELECTRIFIED -- Borba, No 92, 18 Apr 49

At the end of 1948, members of the People's Front of the village of Donje Seliste in Glina Srez, Croatia, began preliminary work toward the introduction of electric lighting in their village. The system was installed and in operation within a short time.

Members of the People's Front of the village of Vidovavici are now making preparations for electrifying their village.

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